

This Week in Agriculture

August 14-20, 2005

Public invited to county extension classes focused on small acreage farming and ranching



*Become a Small-Farm
Entrepreneur*

Sustainable Small Acreage Farming & Ranching Course

Part of the
Cultivating Success
Small Farms
Education Program



UI extension brochure

A new course for small acreage farmers is coming to the Valley. The Sustainable Small Acreage Farming and Ranching course will be offered through the Ada County Extension office.

The course will be offered primarily as a web course, with just four in-person meetings. During these meetings students will tour farms, hear from farmers and explore farming feasibility.

The topics will range from plant and animal production systems to marketing and business resources.

The web part of the course will involve readings and interactive slide shows that will guide you in developing your own farm plan.

"The students will be exposed to successful small acreage producers either as guest lecturers in the classroom, on farm tours or as case studies," said Cinda Williams, UI Extension Sustainable Ag Coordinator and course developer.

"It's more than a how-to produce crops or livestock class. It will give students the tools

and the process to evaluate the potential success of a small-farm enterprise," she said.

This course is designed for real life application.

The instructor, Mary Roling, is a communication professor at Boise State University, a board member of Rural Roots and a small acreage farmer.

She will be available to assist you with your individual farm plan.

Community members can take the class for continuing education units and academic students can sign up for credit through University of Idaho Boise Center. The fee for community members is \$250 per family.

The initial course meeting is 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, August 25.

For more information or to sign up for the course, contact Kevin Laughlin at 377-2107 or laughlin@uidaho.edu.



**Mary Roling
Instructor**

The Idaho Botanical Garden will be buzzing with excitement Saturday, August 27 at the annual Bug Day event. Kids will have a chance to play Insect Bingo, go on an Insect Safari, make buggy crafts, get an insect tattoo and receive a "Certificate in Bugology."

Booths will be staffed by entomologists, including the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's Ben Simko, who will answer all kinds of questions about the insects we see.

The event is sponsored by the Idaho Botanical Garden and the Albertson College Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History.

IBG members and all children get in for \$3. Non-member adults get in for \$5. The Botanical Garden is located at 2355 Penitentiary Road, just off Warm Springs Avenue (near the Department of Agriculture).

For more information, call the Idaho Botanical Garden at 343-8649.



Idaho Botanical Garden

ESA, NEPA are focus of third annual Idaho Rangeland Summit

Collaborative stewardship, protecting natural resources and sustaining ranching livelihoods will be themes of the third annual Idaho Rangeland Summit.

The summit, co-sponsored by Idaho Senator Mike Crapo and the Idaho Rangeland Committee, will be held on Tuesday, August 23, 2005, at the Nampa City Council Chambers, 411 Third Street South in Nampa.



**U.S. Sen.
Mike Crapo**

The Rangeland Summit will include forums featuring K. Lynn Bennett, State Director of the BLM; Mary Wagner, Deputy Regional Forester from Region IV; Jeff Foss, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; David Mabe, State Director of NOAA Fisheries; Terry Gibson, Chairman of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes; Blaine Edmo, Chairman of the Shoshone Bannock Tribe and Karen Launchbaugh, College of Natural Resources at the University of Idaho.

During the summit, the Idaho Rangeland Committee will present a report on actions taken since last year's summit, detailing progress made and actions taken on public lands related to the Endangered Species Act.

The summit brings together leaders of the region's agencies along with those from interest groups and universities in a collaborative forum to facilitate interagency coordination, identify barriers to collaboration, encourage consistent policies and regulations, and implement workable and realistic solutions for continued and sustainable use of federal and state rangelands in Idaho.

The sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. with opening statements and project reports.

A hearing-style format in the afternoon will include discussions that will be presented to Congress concerning how the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) has been implemented in Idaho.

Panel members include speakers from the Idaho Cattle Association, Idaho grazing offi-

cials, conservation groups, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Wool Growers and others followed by an open public microphone discussion.

Crapo and other participants will be available to talk to local media during a press conference scheduled at noon.

ISDA chips 39,000 pounds of containers

Idaho State Department of Agriculture officials chipped more than 39,000 pounds of used pesticide containers in June and July.

ISDA has now chipped about 420,000 pounds of containers since the program started in 1994. The program helps keep pesticide containers out of landfills. The chips are used to make new products.

To find out how you can participate in the program, please call Vic Mason at 465-8442.

Crop disaster help deadline is Sept. 9

Page 3

Idaho producers who suffered a 35 percent crop loss of expected production or a 20 percent reduction in quality in crop years 2003 or 2004 due to damaging weather or related conditions must file their application by September 9, 2005, announced Wayne Hammon, state director for the Idaho Farm Service Agency. Signup for the 2003/2004 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began on March 14, 2005 and ends on September 9, 2005.

Hammon further stated, "producers who have not yet contacted their local FSA county office need to do so right away to allow sufficient time to gather and complete the required application forms and provide their production and quality loss documentation from their 2003 or 2004 records. It is also critical

that all eligible producers totally understand the crop insurance linkage requirements of this program and realize that failure to purchase the required coverage will result in refunding the entire amount of the CDP payment – plus interest."

Under the 2003/2004 CDP, producers will be reimbursed for qualifying crop production and quality losses to crops for either the 2003 or 2004 crops, but not both. Qualifying sugar beet losses are included in this disaster program. Producers who suffered a minimum 35 percent crop loss of the expected production will be paid 65 percent of the established commodity price for insured crops and noninsurable crops, and 60 percent of the price for uninsured commodities. Producers may apply for assistance for any crops that are eli-

gible for coverage under the Federal Crop Insurance or the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

Producers who did not purchase federal crop insurance or NAP coverage for the year disaster program payments will be issued must do so for 2005 and 2006 crops as a requirement of receiving program benefits.

If it is past the 2005 sales closing date, linkage will be required for the 2006 and 2007 crops.

The signed CCC-750 application form along with all supporting documentation must be received in the county office by close of business September 9, 2005.

Call your local FSA county office today for all eligibility requirements and to schedule your appointment.

Parma's Nate Gilliam participates in Young Cattlemen's conference tour

Nate Gilliam of Parma, Idaho was one of 45 young cattle producers who participated recently in the 26th annual Young Cattlemen's Conference tour.

This program is a comprehensive, nationwide tour of most of the industry's sectors, and is designed to enhance leadership skills in young beef industry leaders. The tour is sponsored by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and its affiliates, Tyson Fresh Meats, Five Rivers Ranch



Nate Gilliam

Cattle Feeding LLC, and John Deere. Gilliam was selected by Idaho Cattle Association.

Participants in the 8-day tour were nominated by their respective NCBA affiliates. Also attending the event were other cattle and beef industry representatives.

The June 2-10 tour started at the NCBA headquarters in Denver, Colo., with an organizational overview of the association with the NCBA management team. Five Rivers Cattle Feeding presented an industry case study. Other presentations included a Cattle Fax industry outlook session, checkoff program updates and a spokesperson training seminar.

Participants had the opportunity to see first-hand the work of the Beef Checkoff Program and

interact with the staff leadership of NCBA.

In Greeley, Colo., participants saw a beef value cuts demonstration and senior management presentation at Swift & Company.

The group teleconferenced with McDonald's corporate management to gain its sense of the beef industry.

Participants gained additional insight on the food service industry during a stop at a McDonald's franchise and discussion with the franchise manager. McDonald's director of corporate public affairs was a participant on the tour.

The group also toured a Safeway retail store in a Denver suburb and learned about Rancher's Reserve brand beef marketing efforts.

What's ahead in ISDA's marketing division

August 7-20: Armando Orellana (Idaho-Mexico Trade Office) will be in Idaho to meet one-on-one with companies and commodity groups to discuss market opportunities. He will meet with Governor's Mission attendees to discuss opportunities and goals for their participation in the upcoming mission.

August 15-17: The Idaho State Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA), will host buyers from Mexico.

The buyers are in search of yellow onions and will be in Idaho to meet with companies and tour fields, packing sheds and distribution facilities as part of a Western U.S. tour.

August 15-26: Idaho Preferred™ and the Meridian School District will be featuring fresh fruits from local Idaho producers on school lunch menus in year-round schools in the Meridian District.

August 21- Sept. 1: Eddie Yen (Taiwan-Idaho Trade Office) on August 21-31 and Dr. Cao Guoli (China) on August 26-September 1 will be in Idaho to meet one-on-one with companies and commodity groups to discuss market opportunities in their respective regions.

August 21-27: Chinese buyers interested in fresh produce and value-added products, including processed foods, will tour orchards and packing and distribution facilities in the Northwest including Idaho.

August 27: Idaho Preferred™ - in conjunction with Clear Channel Communications, Albertsons, Buy Idaho and Sysco of Idaho - will host the "Taste of Idaho" on August 27, 2005 at the Boise Centre on the Grove.

It will be a culinary event showcasing the diversity of Idaho's food and agricultural industry.

Idaho residents will be able to sample fresh fruits and vegetables, delicious jams, jellies and pickles, great breads, organic meats and premium wines.

Cooking demonstrations, featuring a variety of Idaho products from trout to fresh herbs and unique specialty foods will take place throughout the day on four different stages.

A special room just for kids will be hosted by United Dairy-men of Idaho.

September 11-17:

The Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture, in conjunction with WUSATA, will be conducting a trade mission to Central America. The mission will include an out bound trade mission to Costa Rica and Guatemala and an in-store promotion campaign for the products purchased by the buyers.

September 12-16: Idaho Preferred™ and the Meridian School District will be featuring fresh fruits from local Idaho producers

on school lunch menus in traditional schools in the Meridian District.

September 19-Oct 17: The Idaho State Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the California and Utah Departments of Agriculture and WUSATA, will be coordinating a month-long retail promotion of Western fresh produce in Central America. The promotion will include advertising, in-store sampling, and a consumer survey.

September 25-Oct 1: Korean buyers interested in processed and value-added products will meet with companies and tour processing and distribution facilities in the Western U.S. including Idaho.

This Week in Agriculture is a publication of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture.

To contribute items to the newsletter, or for more information, contact

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The deadline to submit articles is
10 a.m. Thursday